

CRICKET ON THE HEARTH

As we mentioned in our last number, we propose to set apart a certain space in the Gazette to be devoted to the exercise and development of youth's talent, and the encouragement of their imaginative faculties. We designate that department as above—*The Cricket on the Hearth*—because the quiet evening and the sober bedtime hours when the Cricket's chirping are most frequently heard are favorable to the memory, and stimulate the imagination. Let our youthful sons and daughters avail themselves of this opportunity. Write carefully; correct your compositions diligently; affix whatever initials or name you choose to adopt; but the editors must have the real name of the writers, which may be given to us without hesitation; we will not expose you.

September.

With open hands September stands,
Pouring her gifts o'er grateful lands,
And beside her winged sepia glides,
Who do her bidding far and wide.

With changeable mien she reigns a queen,
In silver mist and golden sheen;
With fatal grace she rolls her face,
Where smiles and frowns alternate chase.

The wide fields glow, her smile below,
When she a gracious mood doth show;
With varying will she sweeps the hill
With breezes soft, or north winds chill.

And when her reign draws to its wane,
October's steps come down the lane;
With lingering view she bids adieu,
And her realm bids its sovereignty new.

Bloomfield, Oct. 30th, 1872. CHRISTINA KEITH.

Messrs. Editors—Last Saturday, I paid a visit to Mr. C. P. Ladd's machine shop, and although it is so near us, almost adjoining the Ridgewood depot, I believe very few of us know about it.

Here they make magnetic batteries, electrical machines, automaton baby carriages, etc., supplying firms in New York and other places with the above.

They also make models, and lately sent to England the model of a steam canal boat.

Mr. Ladd is the inventor of the patent lamp which is now used extensively.

Mr. Brown, one of the gentlemen there, invented the wonderful ellipsograph which will draw a perfect oval of any size. A full description of this wonderful instrument is given in the Scientific American of July 18th, 1872.

Their work is particularly neat, and it is well worth while to visit Mr. Ladd's shop and see their fine machinery and workmanship.

Bloomfield, Oct. 28th 1872.

OUR CARCANET.

Duty.—(Leighton.)

I REACH a duty, yet I do it not,
And therefore see no higher: but if done,
My view is brightened, and another spot
Seen on my moral sun.

For, be the duty high as angel's flight,
Fulfill it, and a higher will arise,
Even from its ashes. Duty is infinite—
Receding as the skies.

And thus it is, the poorest most deplors
Their want of purity. As fold by fold
In duties done, falls from their eyes, the more
Of Duty they behold.

Were it not wisdom, then, to close our eyes
On duties crowding only to appal?
No: Duty is our ladder to the skies,
And, climbing not, we fall.

REAL NOBILITY—I have no respect for titled rank, unless it be accompanied with true nobility of soul; but I have remarked in all countries where artificial distinctions exist, that the very highest classes are always the most courteous and unassuming. Those who are well assured of their own standing, are least apt to trespass on that of others; whereas nothing is so offensive as the aspirations of vulgarity, which thinks to elevate itself by humiliating its neighbor.—*Freitag.*

THE DEVIL.—The devil is like a fowler; of the birds he catches, he wrings most of their necks; but keeps a few alive, to allure other birds to his snare, by singing the song he will have in a cage. I hope he will not get me into the cage.—*Luther.*

PROVIDENCE.—The merest seeming trifle is ordered as the morning light; and he that rideth on the whirlwind is pilot of the bubble on the breaker.—*Tupper.*

AFTER DINNER.

The Strategic Cat.

"Talking about cats," said Uncle Tim, a regular Yankee, "puts me in mind of a cat I once owned. Let me tell you about her. She was a Maltese, and what that cat didn't know wasn't worth knowin'. Here's one thing she did; in the Spring of '46 I moved into the little old house down on the crooked river. We put our provisions down in the cellar, and the first night we made up our beds on the floor. But we didn't sleep. No sooner had it come dark than we heard a tearing and a squeaking in the cellar that was awful. I lit a candle, and went down. Jerusalem! Talk about rats! I never see such a sight in all my born days. Every inch of the cellar bottom was covered with them. They ran up onto me, and all over me. I jumped back into the room, and called the cat. She came down and looked at them rats, and I was waitin' to see what she would do. By-in-by she shook her head, and turned about and went up stairs. She didn't care to tackle 'em. That night, I tell ye there wasn't much sleep. In the mornin' I called for the cat, and could not find her. She'd gone.

I guessed the rats had frightened her; and to tell the plain truth I didn't much wonder. Night come again, and the old cat hadn't come. Says Betsy Ann (that's my wife) to me, says she, 'Tim, if that old cat don't come back, we'll have to leave this place; the rats'll eat us up.' Says I: 'Just you let the old cat be.' I didn't believe she'd left us for good and all. Just as Betsy Ann was puttin' the children to bed, we heard a scratching and a wailing at the outside door. I went and opened it; and there stood our old Maltese on the door step, and behind her

a whole army of cats, all paraded as regular as ye ever see soldiers! The old cat in, and the others followed her. She went right to the cellar door, and scratched there.

I began to understand. Old Maltese had been out for help. I opened the way to the cellar, and she marched down, and the other cats tramped after her in regular order—and as they went past I counted fifty-six of 'em. Oh, my! if there wasn't a row and a rum-pus in that cellar that night then I'm mistaken! The next morning the old cat came up and caught hold of my trousers' leg, and pulled me towards the door. I went down and seed the sight. Talk about yer Bunker Hill and yer Boston-massacres! Mersey! I never see such a sight before nor since. Betsy Ann and me, with my boy Sammy, was all day hard at work as we could be, clearing the dead rats out of that cellar! It's a fact—every word of it."

AGED GALLANTRY.—A gallant old gentleman by the name of Page, who was something of a rhymester, finding a lady's glove at a watering-place, presented it to her with the following lines:

If from your glove you take the letter G,
Your glove is love, which I devote to thee.
To which the lady returned the following answer:

If from your Page you take the letter P,
Your Page is age, and that won't do for me.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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